

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A lock, especially for motor vehicles, for securing a movable part in position relative to a stationary part, the lock comprising

two rotary latches arranged at a certain distance apart,

two closing pieces engaging the two rotary latches when the latches are in a closed position, and

two locking elements for holding the two rotary latches in the closed position, and a shaft integrally formed with the two locking elements for connecting the locking elements, such that the locking elements are rotatable synchronously with the shaft, wherein the shaft has ends that are rotatably mounted in fixed bearings, wherein the shaft comprises alternating sections of

inflexible axial sections and flexible axial sections so that the shaft is flexible at least certain sections of the shaft have torsional rigidity in the rotational direction, but flexibility in the axial direction, in a bent condition the shaft has a length that is smaller than a distance between the fixed bearings, the shaft being mounted in the bent condition when the shaft ends are at first aligned with the fixed bearings, the shaft then being stretched whereby the shaft ends enter the fixed bearings.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The lock according to claim 1 2, wherein two axial sections are integral parts of a single unit, but of two different materials, wherein one axial section is of a flexible plastic and another axial section is of a rigid plastic.

4. (Currently amended) The lock according to claim 1 2, wherein two axial sections are of the same material, but have different profiles.

5. (Original) The lock according to claim 4, wherein the material of the axial sections is plastic.

6. (Original) The lock according to claim 4, wherein the inflexible axial sections are comprised of discs which are connected by radial webs, and wherein the webs form the flexible axial sections and are torsionally rigid.

7. (Original) The lock according to claim 6, wherein the discs have a circular outline and the webs extend across the diameters of the discs.

8. (Original) The lock according to claim 7, wherein successive webs are offset relative to each other in the direction of rotation.

9. (Original) The lock according to claim 8, wherein successive webs are perpendicular to each other.

10. (Original) The lock according to claim 4, wherein the shaft has a lamella structure.

11. (Original) The lock according to claim 1, further comprising a carrier for supporting the two locking elements in combination with the shaft, wherein the carrier together with the two rotary

latches and with restoring springs forms a preassembled structural unit which is attached to the stationary part or to the moving part.

12. (Original) The lock according to claim 11, wherein the shaft has two support pins formed at two ends thereof for supporting the shaft, and wherein the carrier has two blind holes facing each other, wherein the bearing pins can be axially inserted into the blind holes by temporarily bending the shaft.

13. (Original) The lock according to claim 12, wherein, after the shaft has been mounted, the shaft is covered in an area of maximum flexure by a clip, wherein the clip is attached to the carrier so as not to interfere with the rotation of the shaft, wherein the clip cancels the flexibility of the shaft in the area of maximum flexure.